

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-04

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SUBJ: DISCUSSION OF ANTARCTIC TREATY MATTERS WITH NORWEGIAN
OFFICIALS OCTOBER 11

1. US TEAM MET WITH MINISTER OLAV BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN,
POLAR ADVISER, AND HAAKON STORHAUG OF THE NORWEGIAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY OAND DR. TORE GJELSVIK, DIRECTOR,
NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY RE NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN
EXPLOITATION ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES, BUCHER-
JOHANNESSEN SAID PROMINENT AND POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL
PRIVATE CITIZEN NAMED PEDERSEN WITH EXTENSIVE ARCTIC
INTERESTS HAS PLANNED EXPEDITION TO DRONNING MAUD
LAND DURING FORTHCOMING SEASON WITH THREE OBJECTIVES:

(1) PRELIMINARY MINERAL PROSPECTING, (2) EXAMINING
FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING AIRSTRIP, AND
(3) ASSESSING TOURISM POSSIBILITIES. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN
SAID PEDERSEN HAD AGREED POSTPONE THIS PROJECT FOR
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THE TIME BEING. HE IS MEMBER OF RECENTLY-FORMED

NORWEGIAN POLAR ADVISORY BOARD WHERE HE HAS BERATED NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT FOR LACK OF ACTIVITY IN FURTHERING ITS ANTARCTIC INTERESTS.

3. NORWEGIANS SOMEWHAT RETICENT REGARDING NORWAY'S APPROACH TO ANTARCTIC MINERAL EXPLORATION AND WHAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM. THEY ARE AWARE OF UK AND AUSTRALIA'S INITIATIVES RE LOS GENEVA CONFERENCE AND SEEMED TO AGREE WITH THOSE COUNTRIES THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TWELVE TO DEAL WITH ANTARCTIC ISSUES AMONG THEMSELVES.

4. CHILE HAS INDICATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR POST-PONING CONSULTATIVE MEETING BEYOND APRIL AND HAS ASKED THAT PREP COM ADDRESS DATE OF 8TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. CHILE CONCERNED ABOUT CONFLICT WITH LOS CONFERENCE. TAKEN WITH BELGIUM'S LOGISTICS PROBLEM, TIMING MAY PRESENT VERY REAL PROBLEM. NORWAY HAS ENGAGED INTERPRETERS FROM GENEVA WHO ARE NOT AVAILABLE AFTER APRIL FOR REMAINDER OF 1975. US REITERATED WILLINGNESS HOLD CONSULTATIVE EARLIER, IF NECESSARY, BUT NOT LATER THAN SCHEDULED DATE.

5. NORWEGIANS INFER CHILE'S POSITION ON MORATORIUM MAY BE EVEN TOUGHER THAN AT WELLINGTON. ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN OSLO HAS INFORMED NORWEGIANS THAT ARGENTINA AND CHILE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A COMMON POSITION ON ANTARCTIC RESOURCES QUESTION. NORWEGIANS REPORTED THAT ARGENTINE SOURCE WAS NOT OPTOMISTIC THAT THIS EFFORT WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

6. US TEAM EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT NORWEGIAN SUGGESTION THAT THERE BE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THE PREP COM ON THE ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES QUESTION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TREATY AREA OF MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT GENEVA LOS CONFERENCE. WE SAID US NOT YET PREPARED ADDRESS THESE QUESTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUM, ALTHOUGH WE ARE WILLING TO TALK INFORMALLY. FURTHERMORE, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT PREP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COM NOT APPROPRIATE BODY IN WHICH TO DEVELOP POSITION ON RESOURCE QUESTION. PRE COM DISCUSSIONS GENERALLY SHOULD BE CONFINED TO SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING INCLUSION OF ITEMS ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA. FYI - IN RESPONSE TO THIS US STATEMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AT PREP COM FRANCE, BELGIUM AND NORWAY HAVE ALL REMINDED US THAT SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AT PREVIOUS PREP COM MEETINGS. THEY SPECIFICALLY

CITE THIRTEEN PREP COM MEETINGS HELD IN BRUSSELS TO
DEVELOP RECOMMENDATION III-8. US TEAM RESPONSE
HAS BEEN THAT SUGGESTION IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE CAME AS A VERY
LATE SURPRISE AND USG UNABLE TO DEVELOP USEFUL
INPUTS TO PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS. END FYI.
BYRNE

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